IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2-5 and 7-11 previously presented.

Claim 6 canceled.

Claim 12 previously presented.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 10 and 12 as set forth in the following listing of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A device for detecting the position of a selector lever, in which the selector lever is connected to a device that emits a signal to an evaluation device in a desired position of the selector lever, wherein the selector lever (1) is connected to a first diaphragm (2) and to a second diaphragm (3), said first and second diaphragms (2,3) being arranged in a beam path between an optical transmitter (18) and an optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14), wherein there is a mechanical connection between the selector lever and the first diaphragm providing for movement of the first diaphragm in response to movement of the selector lever along a first coordinate direction, the mechanical connection providing for movement of the second diaphragm upon movement of the selector lever in a second coordinate direction; an individual one of the diaphragms (2, 3), which follows movement of the selector lever (1), being optically transparent in the desired position of the selector lever (1), as a result of which the

optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) receives the signal from the optical transmitter (18) and transmits it to the evaluation device (15)~~, wherein there is one said diaphragm (2, 3) for each direction of motion of the selector lever (1)~~.

2. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a said optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) for each position of the selector lever (1) to be determined, and an opening (5, 6, 7) in an individual one of the diaphragm (2, 3) is moved over the optical receivers (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) when the selector lever (1) is moved.

3. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the optical receivers (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) are arranged in a fixed manner on a carrier element (8) in accordance with sequence of motion of the selector lever (1).

4. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the evaluation device (15) connected to the optical receivers (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) is arranged on said carrier element (8).

5. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~at least one~~ said optical transmitter

(18) is arranged on the carrier element (8), an optical signal of which is deviatable onto the diaphragms (2, 3) by a light guide.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragms (2, 3) are movable in mechanical isolation from one another.

8. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the second diaphragm (3), follows the selector lever (1) in an approximately vertical direction (y), and has two optically transparent openings (6, 7), vertical movement of the selector lever (1) being converted into a circular-arc-like movement of the diaphragm (3).

9. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the light guide is provided to cover an extended area to ensure uniform distribution of the optical signal over the first and second diaphragms (2, 3).

10. (currently amended) A device for detecting the position of a selector lever, in which the selector lever is connected to a device that emits a signal to an

evaluation device in a desired position of the selector lever, wherein the selector lever (1) is connected to first diaphragm (2) and to a second diaphragm (3), said first and second diaphragms (2,3) being arranged in a beam path between an optical transmitter (18) and an optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14), wherein there is a mechanical connection between the selector lever and the first diaphragm providing for movement of the first diaphragm in response to movement of the selector lever along a first coordinate direction, the mechanical connection providing for movement of the second diaphragm upon movement of the selector lever in a second coordinate direction; an individual one of the diaphragms (2, 3), which follows movement of the selector lever (1), being optically transparent in the desired position of the selector lever (1), as a result of which the optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) receives the signal from the optical transmitter (18) and transmits it to the evaluation device (15),

wherein there is a said optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) for each position of the selector lever (1) to be determined, and an opening (5, 6, 7) in an individual one of the diaphragms (2, 3) is moved over the optical receivers (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) when the selector lever (1) is moved~~, and~~

~~wherein there is one said diaphragm (2, 3) for each direction of motion of the selector lever (1)~~.

11. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the diaphragms (2, 3) are movable in mechanical isolation from one another, the second of said diaphragms (3) follows the selector lever (1) in an approximately vertical direction (y) and has two optically transparent said openings (6, 7), vertical movement of the selector lever (1) being converted into a circular-arc like movement of the diaphragm (3), and the light guide covers an extended area to ensure uniform distribution of the optical signal over the diaphragms (2, 3).

12. (currently amended) A device for detecting the position of a selector lever, in which the selector lever is connected to a device that emits a signal to an evaluation device in a desired position of the selector lever, wherein the selector lever (1) is connected to first diaphragm (2) and a second diaphragm (3), said first and second diaphragms (2,3) arranged in the beam path between an optical transmitter (18) and an optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14), the diaphragm (2, 3), which follows movement of the selector lever (1), being optically transparent in the desired position of the selector lever (1), as a result of which the optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) receives the signal from the optical transmitter (18) and transmits it to the evaluation device (15),

wherein there is a said optical receiver (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) for each position of the selector lever (1) to be determined, and an opening (5, 6, 7) in an individual

one of the diaphragms (2, 3) is moved over the optical receivers (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) when the selector lever (1) is moved,

wherein the optical receivers (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) are arranged in a fixed manner on a carrier element (8) in accordance with sequence of motion of the selector lever (1), and

wherein there is one said diaphragm (2, 3) for each direction of motion of the selector lever (1), the diaphragms (2, 3) are movable in mechanical isolation from one another, the second of said diaphragms (3) follows the selector lever (1) in an approximately vertical direction (y) and has two optically transparent said openings (6, 7), vertical movement of the selector lever (1) being converted into a circular-arc like movement of the diaphragm (3), and ~~the~~ a light guide is provided to cover an extended area to ensure uniform distribution of the optical signal over the diaphragms (2, 3).